



ETHIOPIA PROGRAMS



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NUTRITION INTERNATIONAL IN ETHIOPIA

Founded in 1992, Nutrition International, is a leading global nutrition organization headquartered in Ottawa, Canada. Nutrition International Ethiopia was established in 2005 and has become a trusted partner of the government in addressing the burden of malnutrition through affordable and innovative programs and interventions.

Though improvement has been made, persistently high rates of undernutrition remain a serious but under-addressed human development challenge in Ethiopia, with undernutrition evident across the lifecycle. More than one in three children under five are stunted and 10% of children are wasted. Nearly one-third of Ethiopian women are malnourished and 23% are anaemic, affecting their own health and contributing to an intergenerational cycle of undernutrition. The high prevalence of stunting is found even the highest wealth quintile, indicating that poverty and food insecurity are not the only drivers of undernutrition.

With support from the Government of Canada and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Nutrition International works closely with the Federal Ministry of Health, regional health bureaus and other development partners to improve nutritional status of women, girls and children.

In Ethiopia, Nutrition International's programs are designed to improve the health and nutritional status of adolescent girls, women, pregnant women and newborns, and infants and young children, in line with the Food and Nutrition Strategy (FNS). The program targets 960,625 adolescent girls, 1.1 million mothers and their newborns, 415,825 infant and young children over five.

Nutrition International Ethiopia's Strategic Plan 2018-2024 is aligned with the national Health Sector Transformation Plan and the FNS. By 2024, Nutrition International aims to improve the health and nutrition status of 32 million people, especially women, adolescent girls and children, in Ethiopia.



PRIORITY OBJECTIVES IN ETHIOPIA

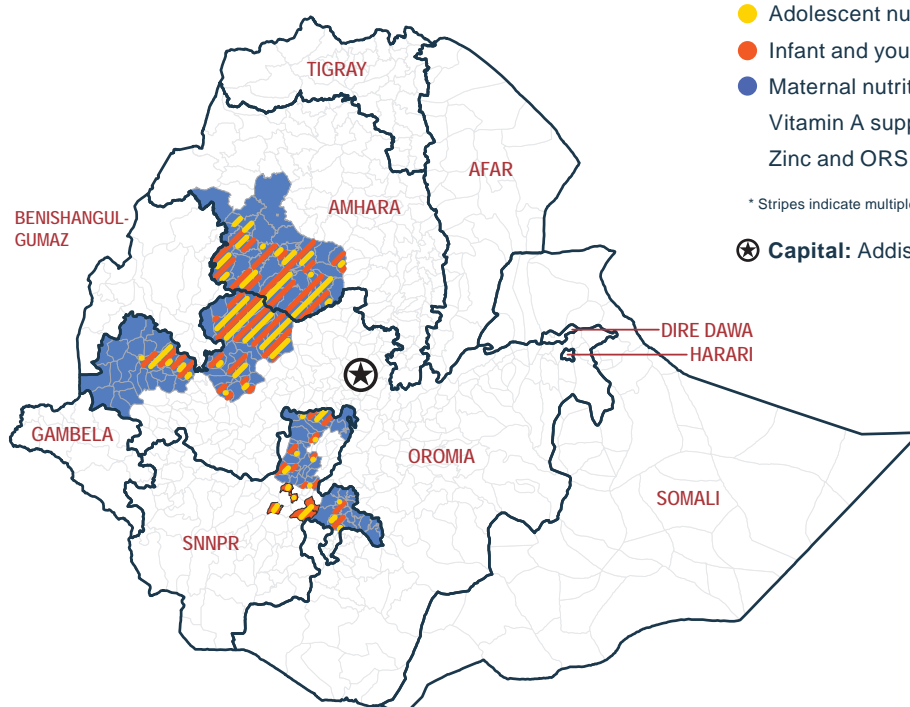
Nutrition International Ethiopia's goal is to respond to the high burden of malnutrition guided by the following objectives:

- Improve the quality and coverage of maternal and newborn health and nutrition services
- Scale up adolescent nutrition and education programs
- Promote food fortification
- Improve coverage of twice-yearly doses of vitamin A supplementation for children under five
- Improve the coverage and utilization of adequately fortified salt with iodine and folate
- Expand the use of zinc and low-osmolarity oral rehydration salts to treat childhood diarrhoea

Programs supported by Nutrition International:

- Adolescent health and nutrition
- Universal salt iodization
- Maternal and newborn health and nutrition
- Food fortification
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Zinc and low-osmolarity oral rehydration salts for diarrhoea treatment
- Product development and market introduction of double-fortified salt with iodine and folic acid
- Technical Assistance for Nutrition (TAN)

Nutrition International's work in Ethiopia



National programs

- Universal salt iodization
- Technical Assistance for Nutrition
- Wheat flour fortification

Sub-national programs*

- Adolescent nutrition
- Infant and young child nutrition
- Maternal nutrition + birth and post-natal package
- Vitamin A supplementation
- Zinc and ORS supplementation

* Stripes indicate multiple NI-supported programs defined by colors above

★ Capital: Addis Ababa

CURRENT PROJECTS



MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Nutrition International's maternal and newborn health and nutrition (MNHN) care package, delivered in coordination with the Ministry of Health, aims to improve the coverage and quality of antenatal care, consumption of iron and folic acid (IFA) during pregnancy, facility delivery with a skilled birth attendant, newborn and postnatal care timely initiation of breastfeeding, optimal timing of cord clamping, clean cord care with chlorhexidine, and nutrition counselling.

Nutrition International uses a unique approach called Collaborative Quality Improvement, which enhances peer-to-peer learning by bringing together many service providers and program managers to strengthen the health system's capacity to improve coverage and quality of MNHN interventions. The program is implemented in the four regional states of Amhara, Oromia, Sidama and the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR).

Key achievements:

- More than 785,000 pregnant women in the program locations receive at least 90 IFA supplements each year
- More than 500,000 newborns are reached with birth package interventions each year
- High coverage and utilization of antenatal care across Nutrition International woredas, with nearly 90% of pregnant women (763,713) having at least one antenatal care visit and 80% (634,187) having at least four



ADOLESCENT NUTRITION AND EDUCATION

Through its Right Start initiative, Nutrition International pioneered the introduction and scale-up of adolescent nutrition through nutrition education and weekly iron and folic acid supplementation (WIFAS) to reduce anaemia among adolescent girls.

Nutrition International is currently supporting the effective implementation of the NNPII, which has set a goal to reach nearly one million adolescents with a high-impact and cost-effective package of nutrition interventions. The program covers 90 woredas in the regions of Oromia, Amhara, Sidama and the SNNPR.

Key achievements:

- More than 148,000 adolescent girls consumed the full scheme of WIFAS
- Approximately 174,000 girls were reached by the intervention
- From April 2021 to March 2022, nearly 385,000 adolescents (184,321 girls and 101,200 boys) were reached with gender-sensitive nutrition education





CURRENT PROJECTS



FOOD FORTIFICATION

Food fortification is a low-cost, high-impact intervention to fight micronutrient deficiencies. Since 2016, Nutrition International has been supporting the government and private sector to start and scale up wheat flour fortification in Ethiopia.

Nutrition International also developed and implemented the food fortification advocacy strategy to coordinate and finance advocacy efforts. Nutrition International's technical and financial support to National Food Fortification Steering Committee and the National Food Fortification Technical Committee strengthened and contributed to strategic advocacy and lobby activities.

Key achievements

- Endorsement of the mandatory edible oil and wheat flour fortification standards.
- 51,335 women received adequately fortified wheat flour
- Worked with TechnoServe to successfully register and import 2,500 kg of premix
- 12 wheat mills were equipped and capacitated to begin flour fortification
- Strengthened the capacity of 59 policymakers, implementers, and wheat millers on wheat flour fortification





CURRENT PROJECTS



UNIVERSAL SALT IODIZATION

In 2016, the Ethiopian Public Health Survey reported that only 54% of households had access to adequately iodized salt according to the Ethiopian Public Health (EPHI) Study report, 2016. Nutrition International has been working with the Government of Ethiopia, development partners, media and the private sector to support increased production and household consumption of adequately iodized salt over the last decade. This support includes supporting improvements to the government's monitoring and enforcement of iodization laws, advocacy for better policy and practices, strengthening the capacity of salt producers in adequately iodized salt production processes, and catalyzing the process of salt industry consolidation.

Nutrition International has been supporting salt iodization in the Afar regional state since 2010, and works with the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority, and the Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority to strengthen the capacity for strict enforcement of Regulation No. 204/2011, which states that all salt for human consumption must be iodized.

Key achievements:

- In 2021, 289,225.6 metric tonnes of adequately iodized salt were produced by processors supported by Nutrition International
- By 2021, nearly 60 million additional people were reached with adequately iodized salt, including nearly 21 million women
- In 2021, more than 2.8 million newborns were protected from iodine deficiency disorders by ensuring the adequate iodine status of their mothers



CHILD SURVIVAL

Vitamin A supplementation

Vitamin A deficiency is a significant public health problem in Ethiopia, leading to 80,000 deaths a year and affecting 61% of pre-school children. Nutrition International, in collaboration with UNICEF, provides the full national supply of vitamin A capsules every year to the Ministry of Health.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- In 2022, 90% (1,278,356) of children 6 to 59 months received their first twice-yearly dose of vitamin A
- Capsule stockouts were reported in only five percent of health posts in woredas supported by Nutrition International

Zinc and LO-ORS for diarrhoea treatment

Diarrhoea is still one of the three major causes of childhood mortality in Ethiopia. Since 2011, Nutrition International has been providing the government with technical and financial support towards the introduction and scale-up of zinc and low-osmolarity oral rehydration salts (LO-ORS) as a first-line drug treatment for childhood diarrhoea cases.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- In 2022, 102,163 children under five were treated with zinc and LO-ORS
- From July to August 2022, the stockout rate of zinc in health posts dropped from 14% to 8%. All woredas supported by Nutrition International reported no stockouts of LO-ORS
- More caregivers sought treatments at public facilities for childhood diarrhoea



PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND MARKET INTRODUCTION OF IODINE-FOLIC ACID DOUBLE-FORTIFIED SALT (DFS-IOFA) IN ETHIOPIA

Folate insufficiency, and consequently, rates of neural tube defects (NTDs), are very high in Ethiopia. The prevalence of NTDs is nearly eight times greater than other African countries. Most people in Ethiopia do not regularly eat food that is rich in folate or vitamin B9, and between 60% to 100% of women have insufficient folate – with wide disparities across regions – putting them at greater risk for pregnancy impacted by NTDs. Children with NTDs are often critically ill and may have severe disabilities, which causes stigma for both children and caregivers. The burden of care often falls on mothers or female caregivers, and results in financial distress and psychological pain and stigma for the families and the affected child.

Since 2019, Nutrition International has been working with partners including the University of Toronto, the University of California at Davis, ReachAnother Foundation, and the Ethiopian Public Health Institute to support the development of DFS-IoFA. Nutrition International is working to test and establish the benefits of DFS-IoFA and design a strategy to introduce the product to the Ethiopian market, eventually replacing iodized salt and improving access to folic acid for women across the country.

EXPECTED IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM:

- Protecting the population from NTDs and iodine deficiency disorders
- Improving women's folate status and reducing the prevalence of folate-deficiency anaemia, while helping to protect pregnancies from iodine deficiency disorders and NTDs

SYSTEM STRENGTHENING THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Nutrition International has been supporting the Government of Ethiopia in coordinating the implementation of the Seqota Declaration, including developing the investment plan, piloting the innovative phases, conducting the baseline survey, and building the capacity of managers at federal and regional offices. Nutrition International is currently providing technical assistance to the Federal Program Delivery Unit to coordinate the implementation of the expansion phase of the Seqota Declaration in 240 woredas across the country.

CONTACTS

Nutrition International Ethiopia
Nifas Silk - Lafto Sub City, Kebele 04, H. No. 161/01
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
T: +251-113-84 80 81
F: +251-113-848 108